Supply of mobile set to landline subscribers

†416. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL proposes to provide a mobile telephone set through MTNL to all its subscribers in Delhi having fixed telephone connections at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Telephone facilities

†417. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are determined to provide telephone facilities in each and every village and toward this objective, it is expanding telecom services fast;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a decision has been taken at highest level to put a ban on the installation of telephone exchanges in rural areas for providing telephone facilities; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The telephone exchanges are being planned in rural areas as per existing norms furnished below:

(i) The priority will be to use WLL solution to cover rural areas.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) If WLL solution is not workable due to technical reasons a new exchange will be planned with minimum registered demand of 75 within the local areas of that exchange.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Non-separation of accounts by BSNL

418. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) continues to have just one consolidated account for all its services despite TRAI's guidelines regarding separation of accounts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken for separation of accounts; and

(d) by when it would be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The TRAI has not issued any formal guidelines for separation of accounts. However, separate accounts are being prepared for the fixed and mobile services and are being consolidated at Circle and Corporate Office level.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Closing down of Media Lab Asia Research Project

419. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down the Media Lab Asia Research Project very soon;

(b) if so, the reasons for suspending the project;

(c) whether Government are considering to restructure Media Lab Asia Research Project instead of closing it down; and